

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 05526 270658Z

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 L-03 SIL-01 LAB-06 AF-10 ARA-16

EA-11 NEA-10 RSC-01 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 DRC-01 OIC-04 EB-11 AID-20 /163 W

----- 074827

R 261717Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6786

AMEMBASSY LISBON

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E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL LAWYERS CONGRESS AROUSES  
CONTROVERSY

REF A-13 OF JAN 20, 1973

SUMARY: CURRENT MADRID WEEK-LONG CONGRESS OF UN-AFFILIATED INTERNATIONAL LAWYERS UNION HAS AROUSED MUCH RESENTMENT AND CERTAIN PROTEST ACTIONS, AS RESULT CONTINUED UNRESOLVED SITUATION AT MADRID BAR ASSOCIATION STEMMING FROM GOVERNMENT VETOES OF CANDIDATES AND CANCELLATION ITS ELECTIONS LAST DECEMBER. ALTHOUGH NO EFFORT MADE PREVENT EMBARRASSING ACTIONS, SUCH AS SIMULTANEOUS PROTEST MEETINGS BY 100 SPANISH OPPOSITION LAWYERS, GOVERNMENT MAY APPLY RETALIATORY MEASURES ONCE CONGRESS ENDS, AND FURTHER STEPS TO LIMIT ACTIVITIES IN BAR ASSOCIATIONS AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL BODIES APPEAR LIKELY. END SUMMARY.

1. THE XXV CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LAWYERS UNION WAS INAUGURATED SEPTEMBER 24 IN MADRID, WITH 800 LAWYERS FROM OVER 40 COUNTRIES IN ATTENDANCE.

2. MEETING OF THIS CONGRESS IN MADRID HAS PROVIDED  
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PAGE 02 MADRID 05526 270658Z

SUBSTANTIAL CONTROVERSY RELATED TO THE DECEMBER 1972 GOVERNMENT VETO OF THE CANDIDACIES OF FIVE SPANISH OPPOSITION LAWYERS FOR THE THEN-SCHEDULED MADRID BAR ASSOCIATION ELECTIONS, WHICH LED TO THE PROTEST RESIGNATIONS ALL CANDIDATES (SEE REPAIR). THE SITUATION OF THE MADRID ASSOCIATION STILL CONTINUES UNRESOLVED.

3. REFLECTING OPPOSITION, EVEN OF MANY "ESTABLISHMENT" LAWYERS, THE IMPORTANT BARCELONA AND VALENCIA BAR ASSOCIATIONS OPPOSED THE HOLDING OF THE CONGRESS AS IN OPPORTUNE AND HAVE REFUSED TO SEND OFFICIAL DELEGATIONS. THIS POSTURE OF BOYCOTT HAS ALSO BEEN ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF SPANISH BAR ASSOCIATIONS.

4. HOWEVER, THE HOSTING MADRID BAR ASSOCIATION HAS ENDORSED THE CONGRESS AND SENT AN OFFICIAL DELEGATION. THIS ACTION, TAKEN BY THE MADRID ASSOCIATION'S PROVISIONAL JUNTA CONSISTING OF ITS QUAY OLDEST LIVING MEMBERS (THE ACTING DEAN IS 92 YEARS OLD), HAS AROUSED MUCH RESENTMENT. COMPLICATING THIS SITUATION IS THE FACT THAT THE TERM OF THE AGED PROVISIONAL JUNTA IS SUPPOSED TO EXPIRE THIS DECEMBER: ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE MADE NO MOVES TO PREPARE FOR NEW ELECTIONS, THUS AROUSING THE SUSPICION THAT, WITH THE CONNIVANCE OF THE GOVERNMENT THEY MAY PLAN TO REMAIN IN POWER INDEFINITELY.

5. THE ACTIVIST MINORITY OF OPPOSITION LAWYERS HAVE CONSTITUTED THEMSELVES INTO AN ASSOCIATION OF "YOUNG LAWYERS," WHICH HAS PUBLICLY DISASSOCIATED ITSELF FROM THE MADRID ASSOCIATION'S ACTIONS AND STRONGLY OPPOSED THE HOLDING OF THE CONGRESS. THIS GROUP IS HOLDING PROTEST MEETINGS AND A SO-CALLED "PARALLEL CONGRESS" IN THE MADRID BAR ASSOCIATION PREMISES SIMULTANEOUS WITH THE CONGRESS IN AN EFFORT TO EMBARRASS THE GOVERNMENT. THIS SO-CALLED "PARALLEL CONGRESS" IS ATTEMPTING TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON SUCH THINGS AS "REPRESSION OF THE SPANISH LEGAL PROFESSION" AND THE STILL PENDING TRIAL OF COMMUNIST WORKER COMMISSION LEADER MARCELINE CAMACHO.

6. THESE ACTIVIST LAWYERS HAVE ALSO SOUGHT SUPPORT FROM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MADRID 05526 270658Z

FOREIGN BAR ASSOCIATIONS AND WERE REPORTEDLY SUCCESSFUL IN GETTING DEANS OF NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATIONS OF THE EEC COUNTRIES TO BOYCOTT THE CONGRESS.

7. AN ADDITIONAL POTENTIAL SOURCE OF EMBARRASSMENT IS THE FACT THAT THE PROPOSED DRAFT LAW REGULATING PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS WHICH IS PRIMARILY DESIGNED TO LIMIT, IF NOT TERMINATE, OPPOSITION

ACTIVITIES IN THE MADRID BAR ASSOCIATION AND IN OTHER PROFESSIONAL BODIES IS SHORTLY EXPECTED TO BE DEBATED IN THE CORTES WHERE SUBSTANTIAL OPPOSITION TO THE DRAFT LAW FROM MANY CORTES MEMBERS IS ANTICIPATED.

8. COMMENT. THIS CONGRESS HAS A POTENTIAL FOR EMBARRASSMENT TO THE GOVERNMENT. NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVOCATIVE ACTIVITIES OF THE GROUP OF OPPOSITION LAWYERS AND OTHERS IN PUBLICLY PROTESTING AND CALLING ATTENTION TO THE STILL UNRESOLVED SITUATION IN THE MADRID BAR ASSOCIATION AND TO THE DIFFICULTIES OF THE SPANISH LEGAL PROFESSION, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD DO ANYTHING TO AGGRAVATE THE SITUATION WHILE THE CONGRESS IS IN SESSION. HOWEVER, MEASURES AGAINST THESE LAWYERS AFTER THE CONGRESS ARE POSSIBLE AND THE GOVERNMENT WILL PROBABLY MOVE TO EXERCISE MORE CONTROL OVER SPANISH LAWYERS.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 SEP 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973MADRID05526  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** MADRID  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t1973099/aaaaagpq.tel  
**Line Count:** 133  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION IO  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** A-13 OF JAN 20, 1973  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21 SEP 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <21-Sep-2001 by rowellE0>; APPROVED <28-Nov-2001 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** INTERNATIONAL LAWYERS CONGRESS AROUSES CONTROVERSY  
**TAGS:** PINT, SP  
**To:** n/a  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005